

With Henry E. Armstrong's Compliments.

1895.

RIVER TYNE PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



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RIVER TYNE PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

CONSTITUTED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD'S PROVISIONAL ORDER,
 CONFIRMED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT (45 & 46 Vict. ch. lxiv.)

ELECTED BY THE CORPORATION OF NEWCASTLE:

ALDERMAN WILLIAM OWEN.
 ALDERMAN THOMAS BURGESS WINTER.
 ALDERMAN WILLIAM DAVIES STEPHENS (*Vice-Chairman*).
 COUNCILLOR WILLIAM EDWARD KIRBY.
 COUNCILLOR GEORGE CHRISTOPHER COATES.
 DR. ADAM WILSON.

ELECTED BY THE CORPORATION OF GATESHEAD:

ALDERMAN EDWARD SMITH HINDMARSH.
 DR. JOHN TODD.

ELECTED BY THE CORPORATION OF TYNEMOUTH:

ALDERMAN JOHN FOSTER SPENCE (*Chairman*).
 ALDERMAN JOSEPH GREEN.

ELECTED BY THE CORPORATION OF SOUTH SHIELDS:

DR. THOMAS MICHAEL YOUNG.
 COUNCILLOR THOMAS DUNN MARSHALL.

ELECTED BY THE CORPORATION OF JARROW:

ALDERMAN RICHARD HANDYSIDE.

ELECTED BY LOCAL BOARDS ON THE NORTH BANK OF THE RIVER TYNE:

COLONEL THOMAS CRAWFORD.

ELECTED BY LOCAL BOARDS ON THE SOUTH BANK OF THE RIVER TYNE:

Vacant.

OFFICERS:

Medical Officer of Health	HENRY E. ARMSTRONG, D.Hy.*
Assistant Medical Officer of Health ...	JOSEPH F. ARMSTRONG, M.D.*
Clerk... ..	R. SHERITON HOLMES.
Treasurer	JOHN J. PACE.
Inspector of Nuisances	CHARLES IRVIN.

Offices: Town Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Inspector's Station: Mill Dam, South Shields.

* These ceased to hold office on 31st December, 1895.

TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE

RIVER TYNE PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN,

I hardly expected to have been again in communication with the Authority after the termination of my engagement. As they have specially requested me to give them a report on the work of the past year, I waive the question as to whether it is any part of my duty to do so, and now send it.

The Report must of necessity record the circumstances which led to my resignation ; and, however reluctantly, I have had to set them forth, though they may not now be very pleasant reading.

I cannot conclude without acknowledging my sense of much kindness shewn to me by the Authority in the past, and of cordial support given to me by several members from first to last. That the same cannot be said of all I deplore, but am unable to deny.

I have thought, Sir, that you yourself might have stood between me and unjust treatment more firmly, and have felt hurt that you did not do so. I trust time may help me to get over a rather painful disappointment, and enable me hereafter more cheerfully to sign myself,

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Yours very truly,

HENRY E. ARMSTRONG, D.HY.

TOWN HALL,

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE,

24th January, 1896.

RIVER TYNE PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year ended
31st December, 1895.

Infectious Disease in the Port.

During the year 26 patients have been admitted to the Floating Hospital, as compared with a total of nine in the previous year.

Particulars as to the cases and their issue are given in Appendix A.

29 Vessels have been visited by the Medical Officer of Health or his Assistant, on account of reported or suspected cases of sickness on board.

Disease reported on Shipboard during voyage, on arrival, or whilst in the River Tyne Port, during the year 1895.

SMALLPOX AND SUSPECTED SMALLPOX.

Date of Arrival.	NAME OF SHIP.	From.	No. of cases of Disease.		REMARKS.	Notes on Arrival in the Tyne.
			On Voyage.	On or after Arrival.		
Mar. 9	s.s. "Regulus"	Rio Marino	3	2	*2 cases removed to Tyne Floating Hospital.	Vessel and effects disinfected.
,, 14	ship "Union"	Dunkirk ... ..	...	1	*Case removed to Tyne Floating Hospital.	Vessel and effects disinfected.
May 3	s.s. "Burham"	Rochester ... ..	...	1	Case developed after arrival on shore, and was removed to Borough Hos., So. Shields.	Vessel disinfected.
June 28	s.s. "Cairnross"	Bilbao	1	...	1 case removed at Oporto ...	All well.
Nov. 4	s.s. "Cora Maria"	London ... ..	...	1	Case developed after arrival on shore, and was removed to Borough Hos., So. Shields.	Vessel and effects disinfected.
TOTAL ..			4	5		

CHOLERA.

Date of Arrival.	NAME OF SHIP.	From.	No. of cases of Disease.		REMARKS.	Notes on Arrival in the Tyne.
			On Voyage.	On or after Arrival.		
April 9	bk. "Glenfaig"	Rosario	5	..	At Rosario (fatal)	All well
,, 24	bk. "Maxwell"	Calcutta	1	...	At Calcutta do.	,,
,, 27	s.s. "Hurona"	La Plata	1	...	On Passage	,,
May 21	s.s. "Harbinger"	La Plata and London.	6	...	5 cases (1 fatal) on passage, and 1 removed at Port of London	,,
June 8	bk. "Tambalene"	South Sea Islands and London.	1	...	Fatal	,,
July 6	s.s. "Glanton"	New Orleans and Bremerhaven.	4	...	... ..	,,
,, 27	s.s. "Portuguese Prince"	India, Havre, and London.	1	...	At sea (fatal)	,,
Sept. 2	s.s. "Bradford"	Grimsby	1	...	Case (fatal) at Grimsby	,,
Dec. 24	bk. "Minde"	Rangoon	1	...	Case (fatal) at sea	,,
TOTAL ...			21	...		

* See Appendix A.

DIARRHŒA, CHOLERAIC DIARRHŒA AND SUSPICIOUS CASES.

Date of Arrival.	NAME OF SHIP.	From.	No. of cases of Disease.		Date of Arrival.	NAME OF SHIP.	From.	No. of cases of Disease.	
			On Voyage.	On or after Arrival.				On Voyage.	On or after Arrival.
							<i>Brought forward</i>	58	5
Jan 5	s.s. "Samuel Tyzack"	Galveston ...	9	...	Sept. 7	bk. "Occident" ...	Hull	3	...
" 15	s.s. "British Empire"	Hamburg ...	6	...	" 11	s.s. "Pernambuco"	Rotterdam...	1	...
" 21	s.s. "Maggie McNair"	Odessa and London	1	...	" 13	s.s. "Elonar"	Leith ...	1	...
" 23	bk. "Lossine"	Rosario ...	4	...	" 17	s.s. "Ashbrooke"...	Stettin and Rotterdam	7	*1
" 26	s.s. "Azalea"	Eupatoria ...	2	...	" 20	s.s. "Gronet"	Benisaf ...	2	...
" 29	s.s. "Ardreshaig"	Sebastopol...	6	...	" 22	sch. "Village Belle"	Rochester ...	...	1
Feb. 4	s.s. "J. Cory"	Plymouth ...	2	...	" 24	s.s. "Cairngowan"	Antwerp ...	1	*1
" 8	s.s. "Austerlitz"	Port Royal...	1	...	" 28	s.s. "Kingsdale"	Rotterdam...	2	...
Apr. 19	s.s. "Cardinal"	Rosario ...	1	...	" 28	s.s. "Cousins Arbile"	Benisaf ...	6	...
" 20	s.s. "Cranford"	"	1	...	Oct. 5	bk. "Victor Patriot"	Antwerp ...	2	...
June 8	bk. "Korsan"	Antwerp ...	...	1	" 8	s.s. "City of Newcastle"	Fernandia ...	9	2
" 18	s.s. "Tripoli"	River Plate	1	...	" 13	s.s. "Glanysylth"...	"	2	2
" 23	s.s. "Marengo"	New York..	3	...	" 18	s.s. "Nordnaes"	Riga & Hull	2	...
July 4	s.s. "Aberdour"	Rio Marino	1	...	" 21	s.s. "Wansbeck"	Hamburg ...	2	...
" 4	s.s. "Silverdale"	Rotterdam...	3	...	" 21	s.s. "Duchess of York"	Bergen ...	2	...
" 10	s.s. "Port Elliott"	"	3	...	" 21	s.s. "Ashbrooke"...	Riga & Dordt	2	...
" 17	s.s. "Crane"	Singapore & London	1	...	" 23	s.s. "Arbeg"	Hamburg ...	2	...
" 18	s.s. "Oriflamme"	London ...	...	1	" 30	s.s. "Azalea"	Rotterdam...	2	...
" 19	s.s. "Wave"	Sebastopol...	2	...	Nov. 4	s.s. "Victoria"	New York...	2	...
" 19	s.s. "Zeno"	Buenos Ayres and London	4	...	" 16	s.s. "Imperial Prince"	Monte Video	5	...
" 26	s.s. "St. Gothard"	Cartagena & Middlesbro'	...	2	" 26	s.s. "Caerloch"	Stockholm...	1	...
Aug. 15	s.s. "Frankland"	Bilbao and Middlesbro'	1	...	" 26	s.s. "Mexico"	Hamburg ..	1	...
" 18	s.s. "Endeavour"	Rotterdam...	1	...	Dec. 4	bk. "Sardominel"	San Francisco	4	...
" 30	s.s. "Irene Morris"	Elba and Middlesbro'	5	...	" 6	s.s. "River Lagan"	Mazagan ...	1	..
Sept. 6	s.s. "White Sea"	Tayport ...	...	1	" 16	s.s. "Cayo Romano"	Bremen ...	2	...
					" 18	s.s. "Endeavour"...	Calcutta and Dundee	5	...
					" 18	s.s. "Matin"	"	4	...
		<i>Carried forward</i>	58	5			TOTAL ...	131	12

* Removed to Tyne Floating Hospital, and on observation proved to be Enteric Fever.

SCARLET FEVER.

Date of Arrival.	NAME OF SHIP.	From.	No. of Cases of Disease.		REMARKS.	Notes on arrival in the Tyne.
			On voyage.	On or after Arrival.		
Dec. 6	sch. "Cypress" ...	Rochester ...	...	1	*Removed to Tyne Floating Hosp.	Vessel & effect disinfected.
,, 30	Training s. "Wellesley"	Tyne ...	...	1	*Removed to Tyne Floating Hosp.	Vessel disinfected.
		TOTAL ...	..	2		

DIPHTHERIA.

Date of Arrival.	NAME OF SHIP.	From.	No. of Cases of Disease.		REMARKS.	Notes on arrival in the Tyne.
			On Voyage.	On or after Arrival.		
May 25	s.s. "Girdleness" ...	Hamburg ...	...	1	*Removed to Tyne Floating Hosp.	Vessel & effect disinfected.

ENTERIC (OR TYPHOID) FEVER.

Date of Arrival.	NAME OF SHIP.	From.	No. of Cases of Disease.		REMARKS.	Notes on arrival in the Tyne.
			On Voyage.	On or after Arrival.		
Jan. 8	s.s. "Nora" ..	Fredr'kstadt	1	...	...	All well
Mar. 19	ship "Artushof" ...	Elsinore ...	...	1	*Removed to Tyne Floating Hosp.	Vessel & effect disinfected.
July 12	s.s. "Monkseaton" ...	Liverpool ...	1	1†	† Case Isolated on board ...	,,
Sept. 4	s.s. "Cavour" ...	Middlesbro'	...	1	Case developed after arrival on shore, and was removed to City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Newcastle.	,,
,, 14	s.s. "W. B. Ferguson" ...	Odessa and Hull.	1	...	...	All well
,, 22	s.s. "Bona" ...	St. Petersburg & Rotterdam.	2	...	At St. Petersburg ...	,,
,, 26	s.s. "Cairngowan" ...	Antwerp ...	1	1	1 case fatal at Antwerp, *1 case removed to Tyne Floating Hos.	Vessel disinfected.
Oct. 21	s.s. "Duchess of York" ...	Bergen ...	1	...	Case at Bergen ...	All well
,, 17	s.s. "Willow Dene" ...	New Orleans	1	..	...	,,
		TOTAL ...	8	4		

SUSPECTED FEVER.

Date of Arrival.	NAME OF SHIP.	From.	No. of Cases of Disease.		REMARKS.	Notes on arrival in the Tyne.
			On Voyage.	On or after Arrival.		
May 8	bk. "Ravenscrag" ...	Antwerp ...	...	1	*Removed to Tyne Floating Hosp.	Vessel & effect disinfected.
Nov. 21	sch. "Perilla" ...	Folkstone ...	...	1	*Removed to Tyne Floating Hosp.	,,
		TOTAL ...	...	2		

MEASLES.

Date of Arrival.	NAME OF SHIP.	From.	No. of Cases of Disease.		REMARKS.	Notes on arrival in the Tyne.
			On Voyage.	On or after Arrival.		
July 5	s.s. "Norse King" ...	Bergen ...	...	1	*Removed to Tyne Floating Hosp.	Vessel, &c. disinfected.

* See Appendix A.

DYSENTERY.

Date of Arrival.	NAME OF SHIP.	From.	No. of Cases of Disease.	
			On Voyage.	On or after Arrival.
Jan. 9	s.s. "Diligent" ...	Rotterdam...	2	...
July 9	s.s. "Resolution" ...	Rosario .....	...	1
" 22	s.s. "Straits of Magellan" }	Poti and Middlesbro' }	1	...
Sep. 18	s.s. "Hildawell" ...	Rotterdam...	1	...
TOTAL ...			4	1

MALARIAL FEVER.

Jan. 4	bk. "Nóstra Elea-nor Madre" }	BuenosAyres	...	1
Mar. 22	s.s. "Kaffa" ...	Rotterdam...	1	...
June 3	s.s. "Christine" ...	Copenhagen.	...	1
" 8	bk. "Tambolene" ...	River Plate..	...	1
Nov. 11	bk. "Mindet" ...	Mobile ...	2*	11†
TOTAL ...			3	14

YELLOW FEVER.

Jan. 5	s.s. "SamuelTyzack"	Galveston ...	6	...
" 22	bk. "Esperance" }	Santos and Middlesbro' }	2	...
May 13	bk. "Matilde Dusson" }	Rio Janeiro and Goole }	4	...
June 8	s.s. "Rannock" ...	River Plate	2	...
Aug. 24	ship "Celtic Race" }	Rio and San Francisco }	23	...
Sept. 11	s.s. "Deutcher Kaiser" }	Santos and Bremen }	1	...
TOTAL ...			38	...

FEVER AND AGUE.

Date of Arrival.	NAME OF SHIP.	From.	No. of Cases of Disease.	
			On Voyage.	On or after Arrival.
Jan 9	bk. "Contest" ...	Rosario ...	...	1
" 11	bk. "Bore" ...	River Plate..	3	...
Feb. 5	s.s. "Samuel Tyzack" }	Galveston ...	6	...
" 6	bk. "Borgwald" ...	Rangoon ...	...	1
April 9	s.s. "Dunmail" ...	Corsoer ...	1	...
June 24	s.s. "Coomassie" ...	Antwerp ...	...	1
Sept. 1	s.s. "Westmoreland"	Rosario ...	1	...
" 7	s.s. "Occident" }	Australia and Hull }	2	...
" 18	s.s. "Bawtry" }	Rangoon and Middlesbro' }	1	...
Oct. 23	s.s. "Arbeg" }	Calcutta and Hamburg }	2	...
Nov. 16	s.s. "Imperial Prince" }	Brazil and Monte Video }	4	...
Dec. 4	bk. "Sardomene"...	SanFrancisco	4	...
TOTAL ...			24	3

INFLUENZA.

39 cases reported on 39 vessels, on voyage or on arrival.

* Died on the passage to the Tyne.

† Removed to Tyne Floating Hospital, see Appendix A.

Vessels Arriving from Infected or Suspected Ports.*

The following return shows the number of vessels boarded in this Port by the Officers of the Port Sanitary Authority, on account of coming directly or otherwise from Foreign Ports infected, or suspected to be infected, with Cholera or Smallpox :—

1895.	From Infected Ports.		From Suspected Ports.		TOTALS.
	Directly.	Indirectly.	Directly.	Indirectly.	
January... ..	28	36	19	8	91
February	12	19	26	4	61
March	25	19	17	11	72
April	17	27	9	4	57
May	27	36	13	7	83
June	7	28	11	1	47
July	17	30	22	2	71
August	9	34	16	...	59
September	26	24	27	2	79
October... ..	16	20	20	1	57
November	18	13	14	...	45
December	17	15	3	2	37
TOTAL	219	301	197	42	759

* See opposite page.

Vessels arriving in the Tyne from infected ports were boarded by the Officers of the Tyne Port Sanitary Authority as under :—

NAME OF PORT.	TO THE TYNE.		NAME OF PORT.	TO THE TYNE.	
	Directly.	Indirectly		Directly.	Indirectly
	No. of Vess	els boarded.		No. of Vess	els boarded.
			<i>Brought forward</i> ...	176	181
*Glasgow ...	2	...	†Monte Video ...	3	9
†Odessa ...	5	67	†Rio Janeiro ...	1	2
†St. Petersburg ...	12	12	†Alexandria ...	4	8
†Cronstadt ...	3	12	†Tangiers ...	2	5
†Riga ...	20	26	†Lisbon ...	4	8
*Rouen ...	37	...	†Taganrog ...	3	21
*Havre ...	59	1	†Nicolief ...	3	18
†Sebastopol ..	2	4	†River Plate ...	5	6
†Poti ...	5	5	†Saffi ...	1	2
†Eupatoria ...	2	2	†Santos ...	...	8
†Ibrail ...	5	38	†Libau ...	10	15
†Rosario ...	19	4	†Cyprus... ..	4	9
†Rangoon ...	2	3	†Calcutta ...	1	8
†Buenos Ayres...	3	7	†Bombay ...	2	1
<i>Carried forward</i> ...	176	181	TOTALS ...	219	301

* Ports reported infected with Smallpox.

† Ports reported infected with Cholera.

General Sickness of Ship's Companies.

In continuance of the system begun during 1889, the masters of all vessels arriving in the Tyne, and visited by the Officers of the Authority during the year under report, have been interrogated as to the general sickness of those on board during the voyage. The diseases, as entered in the ships' logs, either during voyage or in port, or, in cases admitted to hospital and diagnosed by ourselves after arrival here, are stated in a Table of 587 cases (see Appendix B). The corresponding total during 1894 was 1,069.

Emigrants.

Emigrant vessels coming to the Tyne have, as heretofore, been visited by the Inspectors on arrival, and kept under supervision whilst in Port.

Information as to Emigrants debarking here and proceeding overland to other British Ports, continues to be forwarded to the Medical Officers of Health of the respective Ports.

The number of Emigrants passing through the Tyne Port during 1895, so far as is known, was as follows :—

						No. of Emigrants.
For America by White Star Line from Liverpool	...	...	...	...	74	
„ „ „ Cunard Line „ „	...	...	...	...	57	
„ „ „ American Line „ „	...	...	...	...	11	
„ „ „ Beaver Line „ „	...	...	...	...	78	
„ „ „ Allan Line „ „	...	...	...	...	38	
„ „ „ Anchor Line „ Glasgow	...	...	...	...	18	
						—
Total	...	...	...	...	276	

General Sanitary Work.

The following is the return of inspections made and other work done by Inspector Irvin and his assistants :—

Vessels inspected during the year 1895.

British Steamers	...	...	7,833
„ Sailing Vessels	...	...	880
„ Fishing „	...	...	1,218
Foreign Steamers	...	...	1,225
„ Sailing Vessels	...	...	601
Total	...	...	11,757
Extra Visits paid	...	...	954
Visits to Water Boats	...	...	78
„ Gangways	...	...	44†
Total Number of Visits	...	...	12,833

The Nationalities of the Vessels were as follows :—

British	...	...	9,931
Danish	...	...	296
Norwegian	...	...	582
German	...	...	331
Swedish	...	...	192
French	..	...	157
Spanish	...	...	98
Russian	...	...	93
Greek	...	...	4
Italian	...	...	25
Dutch	...	...	26
Austrian	...	...	3
Belgian	...	...	15
American	...	...	1
Japanese	...	...	1
Brazilian	...	...	2
Total	...	...	11,757

Of the above Vessels the sanitary condition was as follows :—

Good	...	...	9,812
Passable	...	...	564
Defective	...	...	1,381
Total	...	..	11,757

† The Gangways of the Tyne General Ferry Company (22 in number), extending from the Fish Quay, North Shields, to Elswick, have been inspected twice, and were found in good condition.

The number of Vessels inspected during each of the last seventeen years has been as follows :—

In 1879	...	...	...	...	2,410
„ 1880	...	...	...	...	2,997
„ 1881	...	...	...	...	3,309
„ 1882	...	...	...	...	6,623
„ 1883	...	...	...	...	11,572
„ 1884	...	...	...	...	12,078
„ 1885	..	...	...	...	13,530
„ 1886	...	...	...	...	12,139
„ 1887	...	...	...	...	13,045
„ 1888	...	...	...	...	12,819
„ 1889	...	...	...	...	13,566
„ 1890	...	...	...	...	12,018
„ 1891	...	...	...	...	11,533
„ 1892	...	...	...	...	9,582
„ 1893	..	...	...	...	11,327
„ 1894	...	...	...	...	12,043
„ 1895	...	...	...	...	11,757

The structural defects of Vessels observed include the following :—

			Cases.
Insufficient Ventilation	...	...	38
Iron Deck to Line with Wood	...	...	31
Paint Locker in bad position	...	...	43
Defective Drainage	...	..	29
Defective Lighting	...	...	14
Defective Water Closets	...	...	30
Defective Water Closet to remove...	...	...	1
Forecastle Deck Leaking	...	...	18
Side Scuttles to Re-fit	...	...	110
File Wood Flooring defective	...	...	11
Total	...	...	<u>325</u>

Notices were served, or orders given, to abate nuisances or remedy sanitary defects, either in the crew spaces, closets, peaks, holds, or bilges, as follows :—

British Steamers	...	...	...	893
„ Sailing Vessels	..	...	...	133
„ Fishing Vessels	...	...	...	49
Foreign Steamers	...	...	...	212
„ Sailing Vessels	...	...	...	94
				<u>1,381</u>

Total number of crews of Vessels visited by the Inspectors ...	150,722
„ passengers „ „ ...	22,784
„ emigrants arriving in the Tyne	276
Total	173,782
Vessels arriving Coastwise and inspected	6,446
Fishing Vessels arriving Coastwise and inspected	1,218
Vessels arriving from Foreign Ports and Inspected	4,093
Total	11,757

Special Cargoes Inspected.

Among the different Cargoes examined by the Inspectors were the under-mentioned :—

Description.	Rags.	Bones.	Onions.	Wheat.	Foreign Fish.	Potatoes.	Fruit.	Total.
No. of Consign- ments examined }	78	5	10	166	1230	21	63	1573

Water-Boats and Water Supply to Ships in Port.

The water-boats, 30 in number, have been examined as usual, and found in good condition.

In 42 cases the *drinking water* of ships, of which 81 came from Ports infected, or suspected to be infected, with cholera, has been changed, and the purification of the tanks has been seen to by the Inspector, acting under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health.

A complaint was made by the Master of s.s. “Caerloch,” after leaving the port, as to the water supplied to him at Tyne Dock.

Food Inspection.

The Food on board of two vessels was inspected on complaints by the crews. The food (potatoes) was found to be bad, and was destroyed in the presence of the Inspector. Also 54 barrels of rotten apples sent out to sea in R.T.C. Hoppers and sunk.

Advices as to Sickness

on shipboard, and other matters, continue to be received from and forwarded to the Health Departments of other British Port Sanitary Authorities.

Clothing and Bedding.

44 vessels and several lots of clothing or bedding have been disinfected. 302 Beds have been burnt, and 22 lots of filthy clothing have been destroyed, on account of infection.

Passenger Steamers.

The Passenger Steamers arriving continue to be regularly visited and examined.

Fishing Boats.

The total arrival of fishing vessels at the Quay, North Shields, steam and sailing, is 13,918* (6,099 Trawlers and 7,819 Herring Boats) as compared with a total of 15,567 in the previous year. 49 of these, in foul condition, were cleansed and deodorized on notice from the Inspector. The rest were in good order.

Large consignments of Herring and other Fish come from Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.

Overcrowding.

Two cases only under this heading has come under observation. Notice to abate was served and complied with.

Smoke Nuisance.

The Inspector reports that 47 observations of evolution of dense smoke have been made, and that in each case the offender has been communicated with.

Regulations.

Copies of Regulations issued have, as usual, been posted on all gangways, and delivered on board of vessels in the port.

Foul Cattle Ships.

The Inspector reports that 23 Cattle Ships arrived in the port in a filthy state after having landed cattle elsewhere. Four of these arrived from New York (direct), and four from Montreal (direct). The remainder (indirect) came from Rotterdam, London, and Dundee. They were cleansed under his supervision. The number reported in the previous year was 24.

Watch.

Watch continues to be kept on all vessels homeward bound from infected or suspected ports.

Floating Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, Caretaker and Housekeeper of the Floating Hospital, after many years of duty, left the service of the Authority in February. They were succeeded by Mr. and Mrs. Job Davies, who are about to terminate their engagement.

* From a return courteously furnished by Mr. McKENZIE, Quay Master, North Shields.

Resignation of the Medical Officers.

The Medical Officer of Health, after holding office since 1881, was compelled to resign in October last, having reason to complain of treatment by the Authority that could not be called either just or courteous.

The following are the circumstances :—

In May last he had to attend a deputation to the Local Government Board and was two days from home.

During his absence the s.s. "Regulus" from Dartmouth, was advised with Smallpox on board, and on arrival in the Tyne was at once visited. After medical examination the patients were removed to Hospital, and the fore-castle and contents were properly disinfected. Some infected bedclothes were, however, concealed in another part of the ship, and were taken ashore by a healthy sailor, having escaped the Inspector's notice. Three cases of Smallpox in Jarrow were alleged to have arisen from this action.

The Authority met to consider the matter without giving the Medical Officer of Health the opportunity to be present, and without hearing him, passed a vote of censure on him and on the Assistant Medical Officer, though neither was to blame for, or could have prevented what had taken place. Both officers protested in vain, and the Authority referred the matter to the Local Government Board who replied that they found nothing to inquire into. The Medical Officer of Health submitted a written statement clearing himself, and eventually the Authority decided to let the matter drop, but did not rescind the vote of censure which by their own action and the comment of the Local Government Board was shewn to have been passed in error. The temper of the Authority appears to have been ruffled by the snub they had got, and some things were said by various members which probably, in cooler moments, would have been left unspoken. One member however submitted a motion to a subsequent meeting which, whilst perfectly in order would, if carried, practically dismiss the Medical Officer of Health, as it required him to reside at the mouth of the River, which, from his position as Medical Officer of Health of Newcastle, he could not do. The Medical Officer being aware that he had, by some comments on the sanitary condition of the inferior classes of merchant ships, roused the wrath of certain of the ship owning members (who, with comical haste if doubtful discretion, put on the cap), and seeing that this section of the Authority

with their friends were determined to oust him, thought the most dignified course was to send in his resignation, which was accepted. As they had not, however, expected so early a victory, they had not a successor ready, and the writer consented to continue his services till the end of the year, solely that the work of the Port should not be prejudiced.

Shortly after this, the Assistant Medical Officer of Health tendered his resignation which was also accepted.

The writer is well aware that any outspoken public officer who tries to do his duty must occasionally tread on the toes of men who, having the power to injure him, find the temptation irresistible. He is not the first, and does not expect to be the last, who has so suffered. But there are compensations !

HENRY E. ARMSTRONG, D.Hy.

Town Hall,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne,
24th January, 1896.

APPENDIX A.

Return of Cases Admitted to the Floating Hospital during the year 1895.

DATE OF ADMISSION.	ADMITTED AS	No. of CASES.	PROVED TO BE	FROM WHAT SHIP.	SHIP WHERE FROM.	RESULT AND DATE.
March 9th	Smallpox ...	1	Smallpox ...	s.s. "Regulus"	Rio Marina...	Discharged, March 20th.
" 9th	" ...	1	" ...	"	"	" April 11th.
" 14th	Suspected Smallpox...	1	Non-infectious	ship "Union"	Dunkirk ...	" March 15th.
" 19th	" Enteric Fever	1	"	ship "Artushof"	Elsinore ...	" March 21st.
May 8th	" Fever ...	1	"	bk. "Ravensrag"	Antwerp ...	" May 10th.
" 25th	Diphtheria ...	1	Ulcerative Tonsilitis...	s.s. "Girdleness"	Hamburg ...	" May 26th.
July 5th	Measles ...	1	Measles ...	s.s. "Norse King"	Bergen ...	" July 8th.
September 17th...	Suspicious Diarrhoea..	1	Enteric Fever	s.s. "Ashbrook"	Rotterdam...	" October 18th.
" 22th...	Diarrhoea ...	1	Diarrhoea ...	sch. "Village Belle"	Rochester ...	" September 27th.
" 24th...	Suspicious Diarrhoea..	1	Enteric Fever	s.s. "Cairngowan"	Antwerp ...	" October 18th.
October 1st	Enteric Fever	1	"	Tync Sailors' Home...	.....	Died, October 6th.
November 11th...	Malarial Fever	11	Malarial Fever	ship "Mindet"	Mobile ...	9 Discharged, Nov. 22nd, and 2 on Nov. 29th.
" 21st...	Febricula ...	1	Febricula ...	sch. "Perilla"	Folkstone ...	Discharged, December 4th.
" 21st...	Rheumatic Fever ...	1	Rheumatic Fever	ship "Nixie"	Hamburg ...	" November 22nd.
December 6th...	Scarlet Fever	1	Scarlet Fever	sch. "Cyprus"	London ...	In Hospital at close of year.
" 30th...	"	1	"	"Wellesley" Training Ship.	Tyne ...	"
	TOTAL ...	26				

RIVER TYNE PORT

APPENDIX

Return shewing cases of Sickness * reported by Masters of Vessels as having different months

DATE.		Cholera.	Smallpox.	Suspected Smallpox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Suspected Enteric Fever.	Suspected Fever.	Measles.	Malarial Fever.	Intermittent Fever.	Yellow Fever.	Influenza.	Fever and Aguc.	Diarrhoea & Choleraic Diarrhoea.	Suspicious Diarrhoea.	Dysentery.	Syphilis.	Gonorrhoea.
1895.																				
January	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	8	3	11	28	...	2	2	2
February	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	3	...	...	1	...
March	...	...	5 ^{oo}	1 ^o	...	...	...	1 ^o	...	...	1	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...
April	...	7 ^x	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	1	2	...	...	..	...
May	...	6 ^x	1	...	...	1 ^o	...	...	1 ^o	...	...	...	4 ^{xxxx}	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
June	...	1 ^x	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 ^x	...	2 ^{xx}	4	1	5	...	...	1	...
July	...	5 ^x	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1 ^o	...	...	...	...	...	17	...	2	...	..
August	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23 ^{xxx}	...	...	7	...	...	3	1
September	...	1 ^x	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	1 ^x	...	4	25 ^o	2 ^{oo}	1	4	1
October	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 ^o	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	29	...	...	2	...
November	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1 ^o	...	13 ^{oooooo oooooo xx}	...	...	1	3	9	...	...	1	...
December	...	1 ^x	...	...	2 ^{oo}	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	2	4	16	...	...	1	...
TOTALS	...	21	8	1	2	1	11	1	2	1	17	2	38	39	27	141	2	5	15	4

* The names of the Diseases occurring during Voyage are given as reported by the Masters of the Vessels.

occurred during the Voyage, or coming under notice in Port in each of the
of the Year 1895.

x Deaths. o Removed to Tyne Floating Hospital.

o Removed to Tyne Floating Hospital.

